

Jordan Times

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Hague expels Soviet diplomat

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands has expelled a Soviet diplomat after accusing him of spying, government sources said. Friday, Alexander Konov, a third secretary at the Soviet embassy in the Hague, was discovered spying by the Dutch secret service early this month and ordered to leave the country by Feb. 13, the sources added. According to Dutch newspaper reports he left on that date. The government did not announce the expulsion in order to avoid damaging relations with the Soviet Union and to try to prevent any retaliation against Dutch diplomats, they said. The Foreign Ministry confirmed a Soviet diplomat had been expelled but refused to give any other details. No Soviet spokesman was immediately available for comment.

Gold continues slump

LONDON (R) — Gold continued its slide on the London market Friday, closing nearly \$10 down on Thursday at \$464.75 an ounce. Gold has lost nearly \$50 in the past 10 days, after trading at a two-year high of \$509 on Feb. 15, shortly before the current round of oil price cuts began. Dealers said the fall in oil prices was seen as likely to help slow worldwide inflation rates, so gold, the traditional hedge against weak currencies, was less attractive to hold. Speculators in the metal had begun unloading it when it dropped below \$500, they said, and the price had not yet stabilised. Friday's closing price was above the day's low of \$460.50, helped by news of a half-point prime rate cut by three major U.S. banks, and market analysts said gold was now expected to level off in the \$440-460 band.

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Tabatabai refused diplomatic immunity

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — A West German court overruled the Foreign Ministry Friday and refused to grant diplomatic immunity to Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Sadeq Tabatabai, on trial for alleged drug smuggling. Mr. Tabatabai, 39, related by marriage to Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was detained at Dusseldorf airport on Jan. 8 after customs officials found 1.6 kilograms of raw opium in his luggage. Three weeks later, Iran said he had been on a secret mission as a special ambassador, a claim belatedly endorsed by the Bonn Foreign Ministry, which at first denied any knowledge of his presence.

Eritrean rebels kill Ethiopian troops

BAHRAIN (R) — Eritrean separatist guerrillas have killed 200 Ethiopian soldiers and captured 26 in fierce battles in western Eritrea during the past week, a guerrilla spokesman said Friday. Osman Abu Bakr, spokesman for the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF-PLF), told the Qatari News Agency that Ethiopia had sent 20,000 soldiers into the week-long battles west of the city of Barentu in the mountains of Eritrea. He said Ethiopian troops were using Soviet-made guns and MIG-21s and 22s in bombing guerrilla strongholds in the area. The Ethiopian government was still sending reinforcements to the battle zone backed by sophisticated Soviet-made weapons. Mr. Abu Bakr said. Earlier this week, Somali Radio quoted a spokesman of another guerrilla group as saying the separatist commandos killed 150 government troops during fighting in the Red Sea province. Mr. Abu Bakr said more than 150,000 Eritrean guerrillas have been killed and half a million people have taken refuge in neighbouring Sudan since the guerrilla war started 20 years ago.

3 priests charged with murder

BACOLOD, Philippines (R) — Three Roman Catholic priests were charged Friday with the murder of a town mayor who was shot dead in the Philippines a year ago. The prosecutor's office said charges filed by the provincial military commander alleged that Australian Father Brian Gore and Irishman Father Niall O'Brien plotted the killing in an ambush by Filipino priest Father Vicente Dangan. Kabankalan Mayor Pablo Zola and four companions were shot last March 10, a few months after the bodies of 10 Filipino workers were discovered on his sugar farm in Negros Occidental province, 560 kilometres south-east of Manila.

Piranha smuggler detained in Manila

MANILA (R) — Airport customs officers Friday caught 100 man-eating piranha fish which a passenger tried to bring through in a plastic bag with his luggage on a flight to the Philippines from Taipei. A customs spokesman said the piranhas—beings measuring about two inches—were in the water-filled bag with around 400 other exotic fish. He said Manila businessman Victor Chan faced charges under a law banning the importation and possession of live piranhas. South American fish that can devour an animal within minutes. Tropical fish collectors will pay up to 1,000 pesos (\$105) for a piranha in the Philippines.

Reagan's reference to Palestinian homeland conforms to policy, State Department says

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's call for "something in the nature of a homeland" for the Palestinians did not deviate from United States policy, the State Department has said.

Mr. Reagan's remarks to reporters Wednesday made headline news in Israel where any suggestion of a Palestinian state on Israeli borders triggers alarm signals. But State Department spokesman Alan Romberg Thursday made clear that U.S. policy remains the same: "To advocate Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan and seek the entry of Jordan into the peace process." "The president's remarks are fully consistent with his previous statements regarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Mr. Romberg told reporters.

Later, Secretary of State George Shultz returned to the standard formulation when, replying to questions following an Atlanta speech, he blamed the difficulties in the search for peace on failure "to find the answer to the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people." When he met reporters Thursday, Mr. Reagan restated the

retary Caspar Weinberger told reporters: "That has been the policy of the United States for years." Officials have previously held out the possibility of a role for an expanded multinational force in Lebanon following withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces.

Elaborating Friday, Mr. Weinberger told a news conference an increase in the 4,400-strong force, now made up of American, French, Italian and British troops, could be part of a withdrawal agreement.

He said the multinational force could extend its coverage to Israel's northern border to prevent attacks from Lebanon. Israel wants its own troops to man stations in southern Lebanon to prevent cross-border attacks. But this is opposed both by Lebanon and the United States.

In Atlanta, Mr. Shultz voiced optimism that the Lebanon situation would soon be resolved. He also rejected strongly the Israeli government's position that the Palestinians already have a homeland in Jordan.

"There are many Palestinians living in Jordan," Mr. Shultz said. "The point is there are also many Palestinians living on the West Bank and Gaza and I think there are many Palestinians who are homeless and refugees in other countries, not only Lebanon."

Cairo says Taba talks will resume next week

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Israel will resume talks on the future of the long-disputed Sinai area of Taba next week, an Egyptian foreign ministry statement said Friday.

The issue of Taba, a 700 square-metre coastal strip south of the Israeli port of Eilat, has been in dispute since Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula last April.

Both countries claim sovereignty over the small desert area but agreed in tripartite talks with the United States last April to make it no-man's-land pending a settlement.

However, the opening last year of a multi-million dollar Israeli hotel in Taba sparked angry rea-

Arens vows to maintain 'good ties' with U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — New Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Friday that one of his aims will be to maintain good relations with the United States as much as possible.

Mr. Arens arrived in Israel from Washington, where he served as ambassador for the past year, and will take up the defence portfolio from the controversial Ariel Sharon next week.

Mr. Sharon was forced to resign the defence post over an inquiry commission report on the Beirut massacre of Palestinians in Beirut last September, but has remained in the cabinet as a minister.

Pertini offers to allow ex-king to return

ROME (R) — Italian President Sandro Pertini said Friday he hoped former King Umberto, who is gravely ill, would be allowed to return here after 36 years of exile.

The socialist president's statement fuelled an increasingly heated debate here over whether, and by what means, the 78-year-old ex-monarch should be allowed to fulfil his oft-expressed desire to see Italy again before he dies.

King Umberto, who has spent most of his years of exile in Portugal, has been undergoing treatment for a reportedly incurable bone cancer in a London clinic for several months. Recent statements by members of his family in the Italian press have said he has only a few weeks to live.

Mrs. Gandhi optimistic of non-aligned summit

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said Friday she hoped the forthcoming non-aligned summit in New Delhi would steer clear of divisive issues and concentrate on areas of common interest, particularly joint economic action by Third World countries.

Mrs. Gandhi said she did not think that Kampuchean leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk should be invited to the conference and the controversial question of who should represent Phnom Penh would be left for the summit to decide. Speaking to foreign journalists, she said India's view was that the

Italian constitution, established in 1947, forbids the king, his wife and male descendants from setting foot on Italian soil.

But President Pertini, 86, said in a letter to the king's daughter, Princess Maria Beatrice: "I wish to record my personal wish that your father's desire to spend the last days of his life in Italy be fulfilled."

The publication of the letter came amidst a welter of sometimes heated exchanges between politicians as to whether special measures should be taken to allow the ex-king back.

Social Democratic Party leader Pietro Longo Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani suggesting that a special visa be accorded to the ex-king.

Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has said he wants the meeting to agree on concrete measures for reviving world trade and boosting Third World economic cooperation.

The draft resolution being circulated ahead of the conference, which opens at officials level on March 2, calls for restructuring the world's financial institutions so that they meet the needs of the developing world better, according to Third World diplomats.

Mrs. Gandhi said India believed in a new international economic order as the present world financial institutions were to the advantage of the rich countries.

Lebanese soldiers block Israeli incursion

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese soldiers Friday turned back three Israeli jeeps when they tried to cross a checkpoint into an area of suburban Beirut controlled by the Lebanese army, an army spokesman said.

The incident was the third of its kind since the middle of this month when the Lebanese army assumed responsibility for security in the city and its outskirts, including several roads vital as supply lines for Israeli forces in Lebanon.

The first occurred on Feb. 16 hours after the army took control, when three Israeli personnel carriers tried to go through a checkpoint in what Western diplomats described as a calculated move to test the Lebanese response.

Israeli vehicles were turned back at another checkpoint two days later.

The Lebanese army spokesman described Friday's incident as not serious. "Three Israeli jeeps tried to go inside the area of the Lebanese army. That's all—the Lebanese army stopped these people," he said.

Lebanese forces have allowed the Israelis to continue to use a limited number of main roads in "greater Beirut." The spokesman said the checkpoint which the Israelis tried to cross Friday was near one of them.

An Israeli army spokesman at Yarz, just outside Beirut, said he had no information about the incident.

In Beirut, teams of U.S. and Lebanese diplomats spent several hours studying rival draft texts being put forward for possible inclusion in an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Government sources said the two teams, led by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib and Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem, had been trying to narrow the differences between the U.S. and Lebanese wordings on certain points.

They also looked at an Israeli draft text on several points and Mr. Habib had suggested several compromise phrasings on which he hoped all sides might agree, the sources said.

Mr. Habib was expected to leave for Israel Saturday or Sunday for similar detailed discussions there in advance of the next full session of talks set for Tuesday among U.S., Lebanese and Israeli at Khale, south of Beirut, the sources said.

They declined to give details of the points being discussed. But they said the diplomats were concentrating on topics on which Lebanon and Israel were closest to agreement.

S. Arabian ban hurts exports from Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Saudi Arabia has banned many imports from Lebanon for fear that some of the goods are really coming from Israel. Beirut's Chamber of Commerce said in a statement published Friday.

"The decision taken by the Saudi authorities to ban the import of certain goods from Lebanon... has caused concern in economic circles because of its negative effects on the Lebanese economy," the statement said.

Goods from Israel or imported through Israel have been flooding into Lebanon since last November when the Israeli authorities, determined to establish what they termed "normal relations," opened the border to Lebanese businessmen.

Lebanese government has not been able to stop the imports because the border area has been occupied by Israeli troops since the invasion of Lebanon in June last year.

The Chamber of Commerce said it was eager to stop Israeli goods slipping into Arab markets and called on the prime minister to take up the matter.

The Chamber of Commerce said its information suggested that the aim of the Saudi ban was to prevent goods from "occupied territories," meaning Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, entering Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Arabian embassy in Beirut said it had no information about the ban.

Tehran does not want to end war, Aziz says

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq sees no real signs of an early peace settlement in the 30-month-old Gulf war with Iran. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told Reuters.

He made the assessment during an interview Thursday night in which he also talked about prospects for the war-battered Iraqi economy, a new oil pipeline across Saudi Arabia, and relations with the United States and the Soviet Union.

On the Gulf war, Mr. Aziz was asked whether he saw hopeful signs in the latest U.N. Security Council resolution calling for peace and in Algerian statements suggesting Iran might have modified its peace terms.

"I do not think so," he said. "These things must be said officially by the Iranians. We cannot depend on hints and assessments that are nearer to predictions than to reality."

"I cannot say there are real signs of a settlement in the near future."

On Wednesday Iran rejected the Security Council appeal and pledged to continue fighting until the Iraqi government was overthrown.

Mr. Aziz said he did not know whether Iran would renew a military offensive begun on Feb. 7 against the Iraqi Fourth Army Corps defending southeastern Misan province.

He said any Iranians who took an objective view—"and we have reports that their military are nearer to this assessment"—would realise that Iraq could not be defeated on the battlefield and that renewed mass attacks would only result in more Iranian dead.

But he said revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and other clerical rulers of Iran had "linked their fate with the

continuation of the war." They would resort to terror to suppress dissent within Iran and put up to sidestep international pressures for a peaceful settlement, Mr. Aziz said.

He also said he was not very hopeful at the moment of improved relations with Syria, an Arab backer of Iran which refuses to let Iraq use an oil pipeline across its territory to move vital oil exports.

On the proposed pipeline across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea, with capacity higher than one million barrels daily, Mr. Aziz said initial agreement had been reached on building it with the Saudis. Technicalities were now being discussed, and a final accord was possible within weeks.

He said work on the project, which might cost more than \$2 billion, could start within months and be completed in two to three years. Several Western firms had already responded to tender inquiries and shown interest in doing the work on credit.

The proposed pipeline was not simply a war expedient but a long-term venture to cope with possibly increased Iraqi output, after the current oil glut, which could exceed export levels of 3.5 million barrels daily attained before the war.

Mr. Aziz said Iraq was getting a favourable response to requests for credit from governments, banks and companies to enable it to get through the cash crisis posed by the decline in its oil exports and the cost of the war.

Several companies had already completed discussions on rescheduling payments. France had shown a positive attitude and progress was being made on a major credit package.

Israel denies prisoner exchange agreement

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli general denied Friday a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) statement that Israel had agreed to exchange 800 Palestinian prisoners of war for eight Israeli soldiers.

Maj.-Gen. Moshe Nativ, head of the manpower branch, told Israeli army radio: "The report is incorrect, as so much that is said by the PLO usually is. No such offer was made."

Deputy PLO military commander Khalil Al Wazir, popularly known as Abu Jihad, said in an interview on Austrian Television Thursday that the PLO had been offered the release of 800 Palestinians but was demanding that 1,000 of them be set free.

Gen. Nativ confirmed that negotiations were in progress to secure the release of Israeli prisoners. The Austrian government has said that Vienna could be the site for a prisoner exchange.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed Friday it would arrange an exchange of Israeli and Palestinian prisoners once the two sides agreed on the numbers involved.

Tokyo rejects U.S. offer to sell AWACS

TKYOG (R) — The Japanese government Friday turned down a suggestion by the U.S. Congress that it should buy long-range American radar and fighter control aircraft in a bid to trim U.S. defence spending. The government said in reply to a question in parliament that it had no intention of buying the AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control System), which is based on a Boeing 707 aircraft. Earlier this month the U.S. Congress budget office urged the Reagan administration to sell six AWACS to Japan.

King invites Gemayel

BEIRUT (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has invited Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to visit Jordan and the latter has accepted the invitation, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who delivered a message from the King Hussein to President Gemayel said here Wednesday.

Mr. Qasem told newsmen after meeting President Gemayel that the message deals with the results of the King's recent tour to several world capitals. Mr. Qasem also said Jordan is "doing all that it can to assist Lebanon in securing a withdrawal of the Israeli forces from its territories."

Mr. Qasem also discussed with his Lebanese counterpart Elie Salem and high-ranking Lebanese officials the situation in the area and the latest developments of the situation in Lebanon.

Pym praises Jordan's role

LONDON (Petra) — British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym has praised Jordan's role in the "sensitive peace-making process" in the Middle East.

Speaking to newsmen following his meeting on Thursday with His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Pym said he welcomed "this opportunity of exchanging views on a wide range of topics of joint interest."

Mr. Pym said King Hussein's visit to London came at a "decisive and delicate time as far as the chances of establishing peace in the Middle East are concerned," and King Hussein is "eager to seize this available opportunity to give momentum to the peace process."

Mr. Pym expressed his "extreme appreciation for the courage and decisiveness shown by King Hussein in his efforts for Middle East peace." He said King Hussein's role in the "peace-making process will be a difficult one and he will need the support of his friends."

Bonn accuses Moscow of election interference

BONN (R) — Just nine days before West Germany's general election, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government Friday accused the Soviet Union of gross interference in the campaign.

In an unusually angry statement, government spokesman Juergen Sudhoff told reporters: "The government regards with concern the massive and hitherto unprecedented manner in which the Soviet Union is interfering in the election campaign and internal politics of the Federal Republic of Germany."

He accused Moscow of making a blatant attempt to discredit the West's nuclear disarmament policy among West Europeans and of crude attempts to divide Europe from the United States.

The statement, which officials said would not be followed by any formal complaint through diplomatic channels, was widely seen as a gambit in what some West German commentators have dubbed "the superpower election."

Moscow has made little secret of its preference for Mr. Kohl's Social Democratic (SPD) challenger, Hans-Jochen Vogel. It sees him as less likely to start deploying new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles later this year, in line with NATO plans, if U.S.

Soviet arms control talks fail. Soviet leader Yuri Andropov gave Mr. Vogel a warm reception during a visit to Moscow last month and the Soviet media have since stepped up attacks on Mr. Kohl's conservatives.

Earlier this week, the Soviet press agency Novosti accused the Kohl administration of following Washington blindly and leading West Germany towards "the nuclear galleys."

Western diplomats said Friday's Bonn statement appeared to be chiefly for domestic consumption in the run-up to the March 6 election.

They said it was unlikely to signal a serious deterioration in relations since, as long as the missile issue was open, both sides would need to get along with each other regardless of who won the election.

The United States, France and Britain had all intervened more subtly in the campaign to bolster Mr. Kohl, the diplomats said.

Mr. Sudhoff said his comments were in response to an interview in the Soviet Communist Party newspaper by Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and to a broadcast on Moscow Radio's German service predicting social unrest if Mr. Kohl were re-elected.

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FEATURES

Cuban workers prefer goods to cash

By Colin McSevery
Reuters

HAVANA — A successful bid for the skills of the Cuban repair or maintenance worker may depend more on what exotic items are offered in barter than how many pesos one is prepared to pay.

Though officially less well off than his white-collar compatriots, the Cuban manual worker sometimes appears to lead in the trendy fashion stakes, wearing imported jeans and smoking American cigarettes.

The reason lies in the inefficiency of Cuba's state-run service industries and the lack of choice in consumer goods available to the country's 10 million inhabitants.

Demands for repairs to cars, electrical goods or houses far outstrip supply, allowing tradesmen

to name their own price for working in their spare time.

And their price is invariably goods to supplement the staple rations, or luxury items normally unavailable here.

Most basic goods have been rationed by the Communist government for more than 20 years. Though generally fair, it is austere. For example, the average man is allowed only one or two pairs of trousers and shoes a year, depending on his job.

National austerity is such that the best of Cuba's world-famous tobacco is kept mainly for export and everbody over 15 years of age is entitled to a monthly ration of only four packs of cigarettes.

These limits on quantity and quality of goods have led to a widespread system of clandestine barter which, though illegal, is generally ignored by the authorities.

"Of course we know it goes on. But provided it doesn't turn into a big-time racket we are not too worried," one Cuban official told Reuters.

A paint respray for a car could cost the long-waiting customer as much as 500 pesos (\$600) but it is a different story if three or four pairs of American jeans and a few T-shirts can be offered.

One Cuban woman said she had the equivalent of a small apartment painted in exchange for a good-quality fan which cost around \$90 in the United States.

Many skilled workers cultivate contacts with foreign residents as they know they have access to special diplomatic stores which sell everything from coffee to refrigerators at only slightly above U.S. prices.

Cuban seamen and locals with generous relatives in the United

States are also a source of American goods which, despite or perhaps because of a 20-year trade embargo, retain a great attraction for the average Cuban.

In the past few years the government has tried to counter the trend by improving its service industries though they are not given priority in a still developing country geared to economic survival.

But these shops, though quite popular with the Cubans, sell goods that are expensive by any standard.

A small tin of Spanish-style sausage costs around 25 pesos (\$30), while a pair of locally-made blue jeans can cost up to 130 pesos (\$150) — more than the monthly wage of many lower-paid workers.

"With prices like those it stands to reason that we prefer goods to cash whenever possible," said one motor mechanic.

Camorra, Red Brigade links worry Italy

By Stuart Harris
Reuters

NAPLES, Italy — A top gangster who sipped champagne in prison helped Italy's security services to free a politician held by Red Brigades urban guerrillas in 1981, according to a Naples magistrate.

The story is told in a 600-page indictment of 151 alleged Camorra (Naples mafia) gangsters which will form the prosecution case at a mass trial later this year.

The document was pieced together over 14 months by investigating magistrate Gennaro Costagliola, and is mostly concerned with murder and mayhem in a war between rival Camorra clans for control of the Naples area underworld.

But there are also 10 pages covering the Camorra's role in the release of Christian Democratic politician Ciriaco De Mita from the

Red Brigades.

The case has been described by the Italian media as a state surrender to Camorra gangsters and the Red Brigades.

The murky affair started in standard Red Brigades style when they snatched Mr. Ciriolo outside his home near Naples, killing one bodyguard and badly injuring another.

Mr. Ciriolo was head of regional town planning in charge of reconstruction after the devastating 1980 earthquake, and he was released unharmed after a undisclosed ransom had been paid to his kidnappers.

A year later the Communist Party daily L'Unita said it had a document proving a government minister visited Camorra boss Raffaele Cutolo in Ascoli Piceno top security prison to ask for his help in freeing Mr. Ciriolo.

The document turned out to be

a fake, but it prompted investigations to see if the story had any foundation.

The case took a grisly turn when a neo-fascist criminologist friend of "Don Raffaele", who was thought to be involved in the affair, was found beheaded in Cutolo's Neapolitan "domain".

The case died down, but with the magistrate's indictment it is threatening to erupt again like nearby Mount Vesuvius.

The indictment says Cutolo was visited in prison by two agents of the Internal Security Services known as Sismi, two Camorra gangsters and Giuliano Granata, Christian Democrat mayor of a town near Naples.

The top-level rendezvous took place with the approval of the national authorities, prison director Cosimo Giordano said.

According to his testimony in the indictment, "the ministry not

only authorised such visits, but also ordered that no note of those present would be made in the registers."

Mr. Granata says Christian Democrat politicians tempted Cutolo with the possibility that the police might ease up on organised crime.

But this was not enough for "Don Raffaele" and Mr. Granata spoke of possibly reducing Cutolo's prison sentences, totalling 24 years so far, the indictment says.

Cutolo sent word to Red Brigades convicts in three prisons that "The Christian Democrats are prepared to negotiate on all levels through the intermediary of Cutolo," according to a jailed guerrilla who acted as a messenger.

The kidnap victim was eventually freed by the Red Brigades for a ransom of 1.4 billion lire (\$1 million) donated by builders in the 1980 earthquake area.

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HOME NEWS

Industry minister returns from Tunis pan-Arab talks

TUNIS (Petra) — The Arab Economic and Social Council, which concluded its 34th session here Thursday, discussed joint Arab projects and the role of specialised organisations in proposing and implementing these projects within the strategy of joint Arab economic action. Industry and Trade Minister and Chairman of the Jordanian delegation to the session Walid Asfour said.

shortage problem in the Arab World.

Mr. Asfour said that, in this context, the council recommended planning for integrated joint Arab projects within a comprehensive pan-Arab framework to achieve full economic integration, particularly in the food sector. It also recommended the formation of an Arab League working party to study the potential investment opportunities and to prepare feasibility studies for these joint economic projects.

The council also called for the promotion of Arab investments in

joint Arab projects related to the objective of attaining food self-sufficiency. It also called on the Arab states to expedite the ratification of the agreement to invest Arab funds around the region and the agreement on the development of trade among the Arab countries, Mr. Asfour said.

The Jordanian delegation to the session included Jordanian Ambassador to Tunisia Nabih Al Nimr, Industry and Trade Minister Under-Secretary Tawfiq Al Bataineh, and Director of economic cooperation and the development of exports at the ministry Ghazi Diyab.



Her Majesty Queen Noor meets the delegation of American mayors, currently visiting Jordan, in Aqaba (Petra photo)

Queen receives U.S. mayors in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor received in Aqaba Thursday the delegation of American mayors currently visiting Jordan.

Queen Noor expressed hope that the visit would lead to further cooperation between Jordanian and American cities with the aim of building bridges of understanding in the social, political, cultural and development contexts.

Queen Noor then answered questions from the members of the delegation on many topics related to social and educational development programmes in Jordan. The members of the delegation promised to convey their impressions of Jordan to the residents of their cities and work to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Hassan receives Gabonese official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received Wednesday Muwya Biyusitah, the official in charge of external relations and Islamic affairs in Gabon, who delivered a letter from Gabonese President Omar Bongo.

The letter deals with cooperation among Islamic and African states as well as the international cultural centre which the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) decided to set up in Libreville, capital of Gabon. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, (far right) Wednesday held talks with the Gabonese official in charge of external relations and Islamic affairs Muwya Biyusitah (Petra photo)

University delegation visits supply corps

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the University of Jordan representing professors and students studying military science visited the Royal Supply and Transport Corps Wednesday.

The professors and students were briefed on the tasks and duties of the corps, in particular the vocational and administrative training given by the Armed Forces.

The delegation toured the installations of the corps and saw field exercises carried out by its members.



University of Jordan professors and students studying military science visit the Royal Supply and Transport Corps Wednesday (Petra photo)

Norway foreign minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Sverre Stray will arrive in Amman Saturday for a three-day visit to Jordan.

During his trip he will have talks with high-ranking officials on ways of strengthening relations between Jordan and Norway and the latest political developments in the Middle East.

'Jerusalem Koran' now complete

AMMAN (Petra) — The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry has completed the printing of 5,000 copies of the Koran.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Kamel Al Sharif has said the reason for this new drive is to promote the Islamic faith in helping to attain the goals which society is striving to achieve. The new edition will be called "the Jerusalem Koran" and was issued at the instructions of His Majesty King Hussein to assert Jordan's religion, its heritage, and to show its commitment to liberating Jerusalem, Sharif said.

Tal calls for close links between ministry and universities

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Said Al Tal has said that there are several problems facing the educational process at present, and these problems cannot be solved except by continually reviewing our ideas about education. As part of this review of philosophy we at the Education Ministry have decided to build strong links with the universities in Jordan, he said.

Dr. Tal, who was speaking at a meeting of the planning and coordination committee which he

presided over Thursday, said the "persistent steps taken by the ministry in the area of administrative decentralisation have made the planning and coordination committee a centre for innovation capable of effecting development and change across the board of the ministry's activities."

Dr. Tal said the Education Ministry and the universities should intensify their cooperation because the universities can play a vital and leading role in the development of education in Jordan.

Chamber helps boost culture

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce has decided to make an annual contribution to assist the Royal Institute for Culture and Education.

The aim of the institute is to study the needs of the Jordanian community for trained manpower in the area of education and culture to meet Jordan's development needs. The institute also aims to advise students thinking of pursuing higher education to create the necessary trained technical and scientific personnel.

The institute also wants to provide youngsters from remote areas with more educational opportunities, and to give interest-free loans and scholarships to Jordanian students studying at Jordanian, Arab and foreign universities.

Alia to increase Rome flights

AMMAN (Petra) — A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) delegation left Amman for Rome Thursday for talks with Italian aviation authorities to sign an agreement to increase the number of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline flights between Amman and Rome.

The delegation includes Alia President and Chairman Ali Ghandour, several Alia officials and the director of air transport at the CAA. The step follows a large increase in the volume of air transport movement between Jordan and Italy.

Wind energy to pump water in desert areas

AMMAN (Petra) — The mechanical engineering department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has developed a process to use wind energy to pump water from ground wells.

The department undertook this project in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Water Supply Corporation (WSC). It also includes information on the existing and non-utilised ground wells in Jordan. The study is concentrated in particular on the ground wells in the desert area with the aim of exploiting them in the near future.

According to the study, water could be pumped from these wells by using air fans connected to the

water pumps. In the case of deeper wells, air fans operating at high speed could generate electricity, which in turn could operate the pumps.

An experimental pumping station was installed at the Jurf Al Darwish well as a prototype. The study also includes information on the speed of the wind in the area of the wells as this determines the type and size of the fan and appropriate capacity of equipment such as batteries and water tanks.

The aim of the study is to provide water resources in the desert areas so as to encourage the rearing of livestock, to provide drinking water and to encourage the cultivation of trees.

American mayors praise Jordan's peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — The American mayors, currently visiting Jordan have praised the important role Jordan is playing in boosting the peace efforts in the area.

At a press conference held Friday evening, the American mayors said that their visit had given them the opportunity to meet His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and a number of officials. This had ensured that they receive a first hand explanation of the latest developments in the area, and Jordan's efforts to serve the peace efforts, they said.

The members of the delegation also praised Jordan's progress in the economic and educational fields. They said their visits to a number of educational institutions and development projects had given them the opportunity to see the progress being achieved by Jordan in the various scientific fields. (A detailed interview with one of the mayors will appear in tomorrow's paper).

ABA permanent bureau meeting starts Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The opening ceremony of the eighth annual meeting of the permanent bureau of the Arab Bar Association (ABA) will be held under the auspices of Justice Minister Ahmad Al Tarawneh at the Professional Associations Complex here Saturday.

During its three-days of meetings, which will be held at Regency Palace, the permanent bureau will discuss the right of residence and employment, and trade union rights in the Arab World which will form the basis of two specialised seminars to be staged in the future.

The permanent bureau will also discuss the current Arab political situation and the ABA's position in relation to them. It will discuss the report of the ABA secretary-general on the ABA's activities during 1982.

The bureau will then elect a new secretary-general and approve the ABA's final accounts for 1982 and its 1983 budget. Delegations from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, North and South Yemen, Kuwait, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Syria will participate in the meetings.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti emir returns Hassan's cable

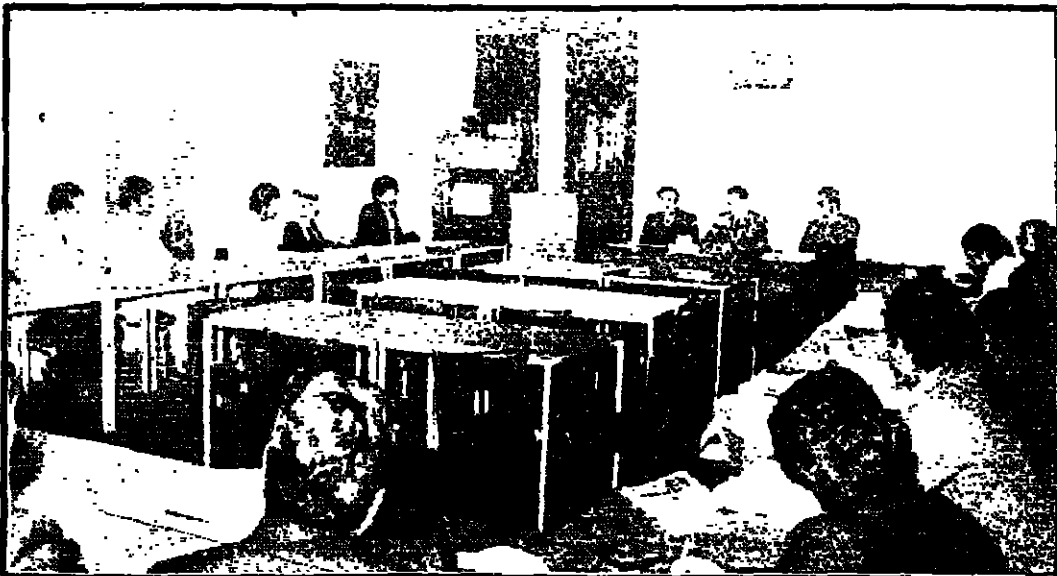
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, congratulating him, on behalf of the Jordanian people and government, on Kuwait's national day. Prince Hassan wished Kuwait success for the future especially in its efforts to serve the just causes of the Arab Nation.

Qatar telegrams their thanks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has received a telegram from the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani, thanking Prince Hassan for his congratulations on the 11th anniversary of his assuming office. Sheikh Khalifah wished Prince Hassan health and happiness and the Jordanian people progress and prosperity.

Hungary to buy Jordanian napkins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Hungarian government has expressed its desire to import napkins manufactured in Jordan, a memorandum sent by the Hungarian charge d'affaires in Amman to the Amman Chamber of Commerce said. The chamber in turn notified napkin manufacturers in Jordan putting them in touch with the Hungarian embassy in Amman to discuss the export details.



Twenty-two participants graduate from a management course run by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation Wednesday (Petra photo)

Cooperative organisation trainees graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — A new class of employees graduated Wednesday from a course run by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

Hassan Al Nabulsi stressed the significance of training in helping managers to run cooperative societies. He called on the graduates to apply what they had learned during the course and to develop and advance the cooperative movement in Jordan.

The course programme, at which 22 people from the various cooperative departments and offices in the country participated, included lectures on the aspects of cooperative work, as well as field visits to several cooperative societies and service centres.

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please contact: PENSION FUND OFFICES Tel. 816181/5

Potato imports banned for March

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has issued its plan for fruits and vegetables trade during next March. The plan does not specify the kinds of produce which may be traded, but it does ban the importation of potatoes during the coming month in line with the ministry's policy of encouraging local producers to grow sufficient quantities of the vegetable to satisfy local consumer demand.

New service fares are fixed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ali Sheimat has fixed the rates for service taxis working on the Nazzal-Refco route at seventy fils per person. Service fares on the Nazzal-Fardos-Iman Nursery run have been established at the same amount.

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Shout for help from Japan?

WHEN U.S. President Ronald Reagan earlier this week offered to guarantee Israel's border with Lebanon once Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanese soil, the Begin government declined the offer, although it seemed considerable enough of the Reagan administration's feelings this time by asking the foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir, to phrase the reply in a diplomatic manner.

A day or two later, when the U.S. president advocated an Arab-Israeli resolution of the Palestinian issue as "the greatest security for Israel", and told a gathering of American journalists that this would require "providing something in the nature of a homeland" for the Palestinians, the Israelis seemed to have lost patience and reverted to their old ways in dealing with their friends in Washington. Moshe Arens, the new Israeli defence minister, lost no time in asserting his predecessor's (Gen. Sharon) position that a Palestinian homeland and state exists in Jordan.

The American offer on Lebanon and President Reagan's reference to a Palestinian homeland may represent a new pattern in American thinking or a shift in emphasis or

both. But is there anything new for the Arabs? Has not the United States always guaranteed Israel's security, and much more? Of course, the Begin government would say "no" to the Reagan offer on the border with Lebanon, for stationing multi-national troops there would prevent Israel itself from threatening and blackmailing Lebanon, and even Syria, when Begin and company deemed it necessary.

As for the Palestinian homeland, let us borrow the words of the president himself when he expressed his "strong personal conviction" that Israel needed to match its peace treaty with Egypt with similar agreements on its eastern frontiers, and said: "What is the stake for Israel? The stake is security. Can they (the Israelis) go on forever living as an armed camp? Their economy's suffering. They have 130 per cent inflation rate. And they're having to maintain a military presence, and that's out of all proportion to their size as a nation..."

Let's now ask ourselves: What is new in all of this for the Arabs? Instead of saying more and more words, cannot the Americans do something? Shout for help from Japan, perhaps?

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Reagan stands up to Israeli blackmail

Only two days after U.S. President Reagan's call to Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon in return for American guarantees of Israel's security, he has been forced to reiterate his call because the ensuing Israeli rebuttal.

Reagan's recent statements do clarify a number of points of American policy: 1. Time is vital element in the Mideast and the peace process can not wait long indefinitely. 2. Priority is being given to an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and not the Israeli objective of a normalisation of relations prior to a pullback. 3. An Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon should precede action to solve the Palestinian problem. 4. Israel's security can only be guaranteed by establishing a just and durable peace

in the region. 5. Reference to the malady of the Israeli economy indicate an indirect warning that American aid to Israel might be cut. 6. Rejection of Israel's intentions to turn the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians into a foreign minority, and a clear reference to the need for a Palestinian homeland.

President Reagan's recent statements are a positive attempt to restore American credibility, and a clear gesture made to indicate that the U.S. will not submit to Israeli blackmail. However, it is still not clear whether the American move will prove effective, for it is obvious that the Israelis will attempt to test the seriousness of the American position in the coming few weeks.

Al Dustour: Reagan's words no substitute for actions

U.S. President Reagan's recent statements are really quite astonishing. He wonders whether Israel can continue living with a "citadel" mentality in the face of changing facts. His reference to the economic conditions prevailing in Israel, and its high rate of inflation—130 per cent—make us wonder if the U.S., which pays most of the bills which perpetuate Israel's "citadel", has nothing new to contribute to the region except for idle remarks.

Nonetheless, the official Israeli response to President Reagan's statements are much more surprising. The Israeli leaders do not simply allow such remarks to pass unnoticed in return for continued U.S. material support. Instead they arrogantly say that U.S. pledges to guarantee the security of Is-

rael's northern borders can not be taken seriously, as they are guarantees that need in turn to be guaranteed. As for Reagan's reference to the need for a Palestinian homeland, the Israeli leaders made it clear that they have interpreted the Camp David accords according to their own interests.

Israel would have certainly behaved in a different way if the U.S. preacher had substituted his verbal criticism of Israel for practical steps that materially weaken both the Israeli citadel's physical being as well as the philosophy that it is based upon. It is a U.S. international responsibility to deal with the Israeli monster it has itself created more effectively than through a mere preacher's words.

After the PNC-session in Algiers

Room for manoeuvre

By Alan Philips
Reuter

ALGIERS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat has won room for manoeuvre to explore peaceful solutions to the Middle East conflict without splitting his movement. But after a nine-day session of PLO parliament-in-exile, PLO hardliners will be watching closely to see he stays within the bounds they believe they have set on his diplomatic course.

A compromise was adopted last Tuesday by the 384-strong Palestine National Council (PNC) on what PLO strategy should be following the Palestinian commandos' evacuation from Israeli-occupied Beirut last summer. The compromise was hailed as a victory by both supporters of Mr. Arafat's pragmatic course and his militant critics.

Aides of Mr. Arafat, who was unanimously re-elected chairman by the new 14-member PLO executive committee, said he had allayed fears of a split in the PLO between Syrian-backed radicals and his mainstream Fatah movement.

The aides said the final resolutions had not blocked any avenues for Middle East peace that the PLO leadership might wish to pursue. Radicals, however, said that Mr. Arafat's success in uni-

ting the organisation reflected his personal prestige — unrivalled among Palestinian leaders — rather than any clear endorsement of his policies.

They stressed that the PNC had reaffirmed the Palestinian goal of an independent state under PLO leadership and its refusal to recognise a Jewish state in Palestine. At the centre of the often heated debates among the PLO leaders were two Middle East peace plans put forward after the PLO's departure from Beirut and dispersal in eight Arab countries.

Brushed aside

The PNC brushed aside President Reagan's call for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip in association with Jordan. Interpreting the wording of the declaration, Mr. Arafat's supporters said it stopped short of rejecting the plan and left the door open to a possible reshaping of the U.S. proposals.

The hardliners saw it as a firm rebuff of what they regard as U.S. attempts to mould the Middle East according to America's strategic interests. In a decision seen as possibly the most significant of the conference, the PNC endorsed a rival Arab League peace plan as a minimum platform for a Middle East settlement. The plan, ado-

pted at an Arab summit in the Moroccan city of Fez, envisages an independent Palestinian state. It has also been widely interpreted as giving Israel a measure of security within its pre-1967 borders — an implied concession that hardliners attacked.

In difference to the hardliners, the PNC linked its approval with an affirmation of the need for armed struggle and a statement that the plan did not contradict PLO decisions not to recognise Israel.

Israel has rejected both the Reagan and Fez plans. The PNC condemned terrorism — a move apparently designed to help improve ties between the PLO and Western European states. The decision was passed apparently without comment.

Mr. Arafat's aides believe he has secured a cautious go-ahead to continue his contacts with Jordan on a possible confederation between Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

The text of the PNC decision, while affirming the special relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians, says that any link must be on the basis of two independent states.

On the issue of patching up ties with Damascus, where Mr. Arafat's critics are based, the PNC declared Syria the strategic ally of the PLO.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

An appeal to the dormant volcano

By Franz Schurmann

In the February issue of the Reader's Digest, I saw a kind of article I had never seen before. It was a joint piece written by former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter calling for recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Reader's Digest has the largest circulation of any American magazine. It can be found in every market, airport, public place. I usually read it when I am waiting for my shopping cart to go through the cashier. Even though the content of the Digest is too conservative for my own taste, I feel like an ordinary citizen when reading it. Again, it is read by ordinary people, black, white, and of in-between colours. Many of them probably do not read the Digest's political articles, because they rarely read the political articles in newspapers. But they read the Digest's advice on health and marriage problems.

It is barely read by those who consider themselves intellectual, and if so laughed at. As in many developing countries, there is a big and gro-

wing gap between intellectuals and ordinary citizens in the U.S., a country where in other matters, like wealth, there can be a great deal of egalitarianism.

It is significant that the two former presidents decided to make their plea to ordinary citizens rather than to the intellectuals. And it is likewise significant that they did so in a magazine considered conservative and even right-wing in political inclination.

By and large intellectuals in the U.S. tilt towards the left. And while there are leftists who shrilly espouse the cause of Palestinians, by and large they are on the politically insignificant fringes. American intellectuals may not sympathise with Israel as much as they used to, but few show any strong interest in the cause of the Palestinians or Arabs. They may cry out in anger against murderous fascist regimes in Central America, racism in South Africa, and as a few decades ago, reactionary regimes in China and Vietnam, but on the Islamic world they

are silent. In fact, since the rise of OPEC, many American intellectuals hold the Arabs guilty of inflicting great economic harm on the U.S.

If the two presidents had addressed their message to American intellectuals the effort would have been wasted. On the other hand, by publishing in the Digest, they will be read by many Americans of what we call Fundamentalist beliefs. Fundamentalism is a word that describes those sects of Protestant Christianity which interpret the Bible literally. They are strong in the U.S. and in recent years have been becoming even stronger.

What has been noteworthy about many Fundamentalist leaders in recent years is that they have taken strong pro-Israel positions. More and more their political position is identical with that of the Begin-Sharon regime. They frequently visit Israel, and one of their prominent leaders, Jerry Falwell, has a warm friendship with Menachem Begin.

This Fundamentalist link to

Israel is based on their conviction that we are close to the end of the world. We stand on the brink of a global nuclear conflict which will destroy the world whereupon Jesus will return as the King of Israel and the Saviour of the Faithful.

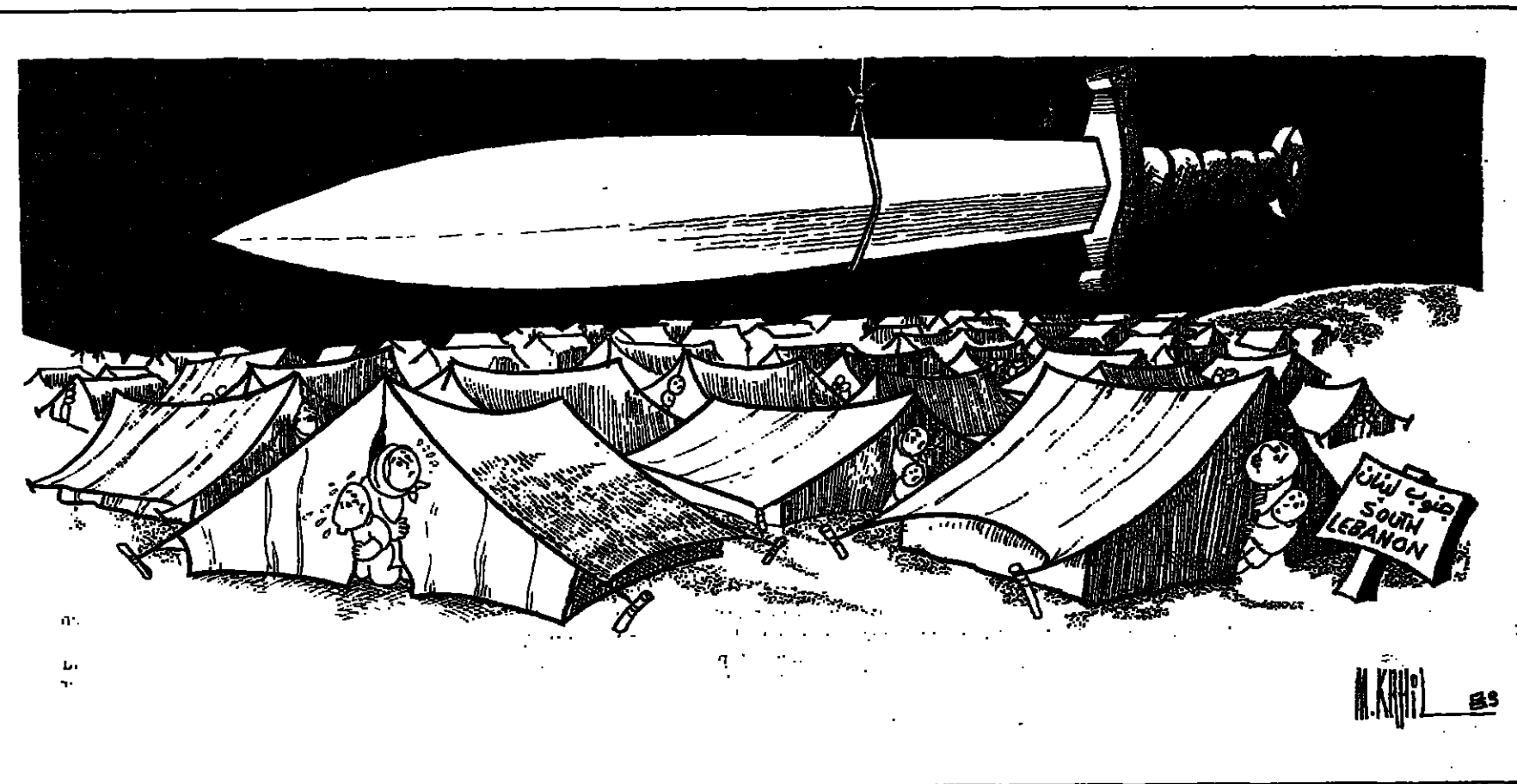
Of course, it is not just the Bible which has led to this Christian-Israeli link. It is also Israel's emergence as the chief aider and abettor of reactionary and fascist regimes throughout the world. Israel supports the murderous regime in Guatemala, was a close ally of the late Nicaraguan tyrant Somoza, and now is helping the increasingly repressive government of Honduras. The reactionary politics of both have made allies of Fundamentalists and Israelis.

In English and possibly even in Arabic as well, there is a saying: an enemy of my enemy is my friend. Here in the U.S. we now have the odd spectacle that left and right, for different reasons, are increasingly in opposition to the Reagan administration, and on no issue more so than over the Middle

East. The left wants the U.S. to get out and stay out, but defends continuing aid to Israel. The right wants to make Israel our top Mideastern ally.

It was Nixon who started to shift the U.S. away from Israel, and that process was continued, if weakly, by Ford and Carter. Now a decisive turning point has come. If the U.S. cannot force Israel to get out of Lebanon and begin to give up its grip on the West Bank, then the U.S. will have been proven impotent. And left and right in the U.S. will smile with sardonic satisfaction.

A mild article written in a mildly written magazine may be a weak weapon. Yet neither left nor right here on in other countries should forget that the American people are still a dormant volcano. Their anger over the Vietnam War forced our leaders to change course. It could happen again. This time, though, two presidents, want to use this force from below to move Washington towards policies that begin to meet the grievances of four million Palestinians.



The man who embodies the Kampuchean trauma

By Bernard Melunsky
Reuter

NEW DELHI — The complex political position and personality of Prince Norodom Sihanouk will haunt the conference halls at the Non-aligned summit here next month. His claim to represent Kampuchea, where Vietnamese troops ousted the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge government in January 1979, will be one of two major Asian issues confronting leaders of the 97-member movement when they meet from March 7 to 11.

The other is the continued presence in Afghanistan of Soviet troops, who intervened there in December 1979 and show no signs of leaving despite international condemnation. Both Afghanistan and Kampuchea remain festering sores of discontent in Asia. The summit is likely to serve as a new test of Third World leaders' attitudes towards the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, opposed by many outside the Soviet bloc.

But Kampuchea is likely to stir greater passions among Asian delegates, with supporters of Prince Sihanouk's claim striving to raise a fuss over representation and to isolate Soviet-backed Vietnam and its allies.

India, the host and chairman-elect, is committed to a decision taken at the last Non-aligned summit in Havana in 1979 to keep the Kampuchean seat vacant. India is the only non-Communist Asian country to recognise the Vietnamese-backed government of President Heng Samrin which holds power in Phnom Penh.

But it has not issued summit invitations to Kampuchea — either to the Phnom Penh administration or to the rival coalition, formed last July and led by Prince Sihanouk, which the United Nations recognises as the legitimate government.

Prince Sihanouk is more than just another claimant to a vacant seat at an international body. More than any other person, he has come to embody the Kampuchean trauma. A former head of state still revered by many

Kampuchean in exile, he was kept under house arrest by the Khmer Rouge when they were in power but is now allied with them. At the summit, three members of the non-Communist Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore — will spearhead demands for him to take Kampuchea's seat.

A big issue

Foreign Ministers Suppiah Dhanabalan of Singapore and Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie of Malaysia said last month they would make the Kampuchean representation "a big issue."

They said their countries and Indonesia would demand that the Havana decision be revoked. They warned India not to impose its own Kampuchean policy on the Non-aligned Movement. Indian sources say India is only implementing a consensus decision which does not compromise its Non-aligned position. They say the movement can take decisions on the Kampuchean seat at any time and pressure to invite Prince Sihanouk to the summit amounts to asking India to prejudice the issue.

Western diplomats believe India is striving to avoid a confrontation over Kampuchea, but doubt there is much scope for reconciling the opposing views. However, ASEAN officials and other supporters of Prince Sihanouk do not want the Kampuchean issue to contribute to splitting the movement. Malaysian Deputy Premier Datuk Musa Hitam said his country wanted to avoid confrontation, while Indonesian Vice-President Adam Malik said Prince Sihanouk's presence did not have to be forced on the summit if this would lead to its failure.

The important thing is that the non-bloc summit must run smoothly," Mr. Malik said. Founder member Yugoslavia also backs Prince Sihanouk but Foreign Minister Lazar Mojsov said that if there was no consensus on the seating, the issue should not be so dramatised as to bog down the summit. On the other hand, Sin-

gapore's Mr. Dhanabalan said that if India wanted to save the Non-Aligned Movement it should have the courage to change Havana decision. The intensity of the demands for seating Prince Sihanouk — including loud calls from China, which is not a member of the Non-Aligned Movement — are matched by his opponents' resolve.

Vietnam has concentrated its diplomatic efforts during the past six months on making sure that the prince was not invited as Kampuchean head of state or in any other capacity. Western diplomats based in Hanoi said.

The Vietnamese "feel pretty certain they have succeeded," one added. Kampuchean President Heng Samrin said in Phnom Penh last week that he backed India's decision to leave the seat vacant.

China, for its part, has not restricted its views to Kampuchea. Last week the official New China News Agency accused the Soviet Union of trying to stifle discussion on this issue and on Afghanistan at the New Delhi summit.

The depth of international opposition to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan has been shown by Non-aligned and U.N. resolutions calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops. Though far from happy about the presence of Russian troops so close to its borders, India prefers quiet diplomacy and has never flatly condemned the Soviet intervention.

Diplomats say that as summit chairman it may seek a compromise decision on Afghanistan to maintain the unity of the movement. Officials in Afghanistan's neighbour, Pakistan, said they hoped the summit would help to maintain the momentum of recent visits by U.N. peace envoy Diego Cordovez to Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran.

He has said his mission is gradually getting to grips with substantive issues like the return of more than three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran and guarantees about non-interference in Afghan affairs. Further discussions are due in Geneva in April.

Stockpiling of strategic metals

By Ian Mackenzie
Reuter

LONDON — The British government has started to stockpile strategic metals used in the defence and aerospace industries, prompted by low prices, fears of political instability in Southern Africa and last year's Falklands war. In so doing, Britain has joined the United States, France and Japan among Western industrial nations in seeking to make itself less vulnerable to disruptions in supplies and to maintain production in time of war.

Britain's Junior Industry Minister John MacGregor confirmed recently that the government had decided to establish "a small stockpile of strategic minerals." The materials include cobalt, mainly from Zaire and Zambia, and chromium, manganese and vanadium produced in South Africa. These are essential for petroleum, aerospace and machine tool industries.

The Financial Times newspaper said it was believed the government wanted to acquire enough stock to last three months and estimated the cost at about \$75 million at current prices.

A select committee of the House of Lords (upper chamber) reported last October that two criteria should be used in deciding what to stockpile: The importance of a mineral to the national economy and vulnerability of supply.

It said the four most important materials were chromium and manganese used in the steel industry, the platinum group of metals used in the electrical and car industries and in medicine, and phosphate rock used for fertiliser.

Metal prices have been rising recently but are still well below their historic peaks and are thus tempting to government buyers. Traders say purchases for the British stockpiles are unlikely to have a significant effect on prices.

A U.S. Senate committee report last December warned that Western countries should prepare themselves for any temporary disruption in mineral imports from South Africa in the event of social upheaval there during the next

decade. Analysts said fears of unrest in Southern Africa and Britain's war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands last year had apparently persuaded the British government to go ahead with the stockpile plan without waiting for concerted European action.

The United States first started stockpiling about 60 strategic materials — ranging from metals and diamonds to drugs such as opium — during the Korean conflict in the early 1950s. But it was in March 1981 that President Reagan ordered the resumption of major purchases for the first time in 20 years. His 1984 budget proposes outlay of \$120 million for purchases of critical materials, the same amount as in 1983. Administration officials said in January the United States would buy one million tonnes of Jamaican bauxite for stockpiling, while purchases from Zaire of cobalt — essential for jet engines — were under consideration.

Mr. Reagan had earlier ordered an increase in stockpiles of manganese and chromium ores. France, the first European country to stockpile minerals, started its programme in 1975 with purchases of non-ferrous metals such as copper, lead, tungsten and chrome. The aim is to stockpile enough minerals to provide French industry with a two-month emergency supply by 1985.

Proposals to build up official reserves of strategic metals in West Germany were discussed in Bonn in the late 1970s, but the idea fell through and has not since been revived. The government has provided some financing to encourage private stockpiles.

Japan announced last December that purchases for an official stockpile of rare metals covering cobalt, nickel, chromium, tungsten, molybdenum, manganese and vanadium would start next October.

The original plan was for a 60-day stockpile built up over five years by accumulating 12 days' consumption of the metals each year. But a cut in government spending has reduced the accumulation for the first year to five days' consumption.

Arranged marriages: Are they an answer or a problem?



Co-education, aimed at equality, isn't all it seems to be

Our young people are pushing more and more for their right to know each other. They are forcing society to decide between a protective lifestyle that does not enhance living, or reaching out and putting up with the consequent temporary feeling of insecurity. I sincerely hope it will choose the latter course.

Singapore revives family traditions in response to housing crisis



-- People News : Features

TV & RADIO	WHAT'S GOING ON	FOR THE TRAVELLER	USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.
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JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 05:30 Koran 05:50 Cartoons 06:10 Rainbow 06:30 International 07:00 Sports 07:25 Local Programme 07:30 Local Programme 08:30 News in Arabic 09:00 Arabic Series 09:40 Arabic Film 11:00 News in Arabic 11:10 Arabic Film (Continues) FOREIGN CHANNEL 06:00 French Programme 07:00 News in French 08:30 News in Hebrew 09:30 Feature Film: War and Peace 10:00 News in English 10:15 Feature Film (continues)	BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz 06:00 Newswatch 06:30 Jazz Workshop 06:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 British Press Review 07:15 About Britain 07:30 New Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newswatch 08:30 About Time 08:40 World News 09:09 News about Britain 09:15 From the Weeklies 09:30 Classical Record Review 09:45 News U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Latin '83 08:30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look About 11:50 Science in Action 12:15 My World! 12:30 Just a Minute 12:40 World News 12:49 News About Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newswatch 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Commentary 15:15 Network U.K. 15:30 A Small Town in Germany 16:00 Big Band Sound 16:30 Arranged for the Piano 17:00 Radio Newswatch 17:15 Sat- urday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary 19:02 Saturday Special 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 The Magic of... 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:09 News About Britain 20:15 Private Lives 20:30 Scenes From Family Life 21:30 About Time 22:00 World News 22:09 Commentary 22:15 Good Books 22:30 Book, Music and Lyrics 22:35 Saying No 22:50 Peo- ple and Politics 24:00 World News 24:09 Commentary 01:00 News 01:15 Letterbox 01:30 Meridian	TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * "Various Works: 25 to 27" by Ste- phane Hayes, at the American Centre. * "Les Metiers d'Art" at the French Cultural Centre. * "Exposition de Fossiles, silex, pierre taillée, pierre polie" and "La nuit de l'empire" at the French Cultural Centre. * Yugoslav paintings, at the Jordan Fine Arts Association. FILM * "Amatecer en Puerta Oscura" at the Spanish Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m. CULTURAL CENTRES American Centre tel. 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Haya Arts Centre 66519 Hassan Youth Club 66711 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.M.A. 66425 Aman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 84355 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and cos- tumes from 100 years old. Also costumes from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, A- man. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Afa (Ciudad HBI). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col- lection of paintings, ceramics, and sculp- ture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries a	collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artist, Montezano, Jabal Luwelch. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Spans City, Amana. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m. Lion Palmyra Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m. Palmyra Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eight Circle. Tel. 815261. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwelch, 37440. De la Youth City 66711 Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Red- eemer) Jabal Amman, 43453. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751. United Methodist Church (Inter- denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeitan, 663249. PRAYER TIMES 06:06 Fajr 06:46 (Sunrise) Shura 11:49 Dhahr 12:49 Beirut 5:43.7 19:00 Kuwait (RJ) 18:52 Isht	AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia In- formation department at Amman Air- port, tel. 92305-6, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 06:45 Cairo (EA) 08:45 Cairo (RJ) 08:55 Aqaba (RJ) 09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 09:40 Dhahran (RJ) 09:45 Kuwait (RJ) 10:15 Beirut (RJ) 11:05 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA) 11:05 Abu Dhabi (SA) 13:40 Kuwait (KAC) 15:50 Baghdad (IA) 16:00 Belgrade, Islamabad (RJ) 16:30 Cairo (RJ) 16:55 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ) 17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 17:30 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ) 18:05 Rome (Alitalia) 18:10 Athens (GA) 18:30 Cairo (RJ) 19:05 Cairo (EA) 20:05 Frankfurt, Larnaca (LH) 20:15 Beirut (MEA) 06:30 Cairo (EA) 06:30 Cairo (EA) 06:45 Baghdad (RJ) 01:45 Cairo (EA) DEPARTURES 06:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:30 Larnaca, Frankfurt (Luftansa) 07:00 Aqaba (RJ) 07:45 Beirut (AF) 07:50 Cairo (EA) 09:05 Beirut (MEA) 09:15 Vienna, New York (USA) 11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:15 Geneva, Paris (RJ) 11:30 Athens (GA) 11:55 Athens, Zurich (Swissair) 12:00 London (RJ) 12:05 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 12:30 Cairo (RJ) 14:30 Kuwait (KAC) 14:30 Cairo (RJ) 18:45 Baghdad (RJ) 18:45 Beirut 5:43.7 19:00 Kuwait (RJ) 19:00 Doha, Muscat (GA)	19:30 Jeddah (RJ) 20:00 Cairo (RJ) 20:15 Baghdad (RJ) 20:15 Cairo (EA) 20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 01:15 Cairo (EA) 02:20 Cairo (EA) WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Due to the attack of frontal depression for the last 24 hours, the weather will be very cold, cloudy to partly cloudy, rainy and snow-fall is expected in the hilly areas. Winds will be northerly fresh to strong at times. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy, with scattered show- ers. Winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm. Low/high temperature in deg.C Amman 8/4 Aqaba 8/15 Deserts -1/6 Jordan Valley 7/12 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 3, Aqaba 15. Humidity read- ings: Amman 97 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent. MONEY EXCHANGE Local sell/buy rates in fils Belgian franc 74.8 Dutch guilder 132.6/133.4 Egyptian guinea 320.5/326 French franc 51.7/52 Iraqi dinar 560.6/570.6 Italian lire (for 100) 25.7/25.6 Japanese yen (for 100) 150.7/151.6 Kuwaiti dinar 121.4/122.15 Lebanese lira 88.5/89.4 Omani riyal 101.8/102.8 Saudi riyal 97.2/97.5 U.K. sterling pound 540.5/543.7 Swedish crown 47.7/48 Swiss franc 174.2/175.2 Syrian franc 62.3/62.9 U.S. dollar 96.3/97 U.K. sterling pound 540.5/543.7 U.S. dollar 354.5/356.5 W. German mark 146.5/147.4	EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 194 Blood bank 75112 Civil Defence rescue 6011
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SPORTS

Wilkins returns to United for clash against Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Former England soccer captain Ray Wilkins will be anxious to put the last few months behind him when he skips Manchester United against runaway English League leaders Liverpool on Saturday.

Wilkins has played only one full first team game since he broke his cheekbone in a League Cup tie in October.

His enforced absence from the game cost him both his club and England captaincy to Bryan Robson. By an ironic twist of fate an injury to Robson, Britain's costliest player, has given Wilkins the chance to re-establish himself in the United side and possibly the England team.

Robson tore ankle ligaments in Wednesday's League Cup semi-final against Arsenal and could miss both the final of the League Cup against Liverpool on March 26 and England's next European Championship Group Three tie against Greece on March 30.

Wilkins could hardly have a more demanding task at Old Tra-

fford Saturday. United cannot afford anything less than a win. "It's the final of the League as far as we are concerned," Ron Atkinson, United's manager, said. "If we lose to Liverpool then it's hard to see how we can close the gap on them at the top of the table."

Defeat would leave second-placed United trailing the Merseyside club by 18 points.

Liverpool's character will be put to the test as they try to recover from the shock of two successive defeats, the second in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup by Brighton on Sunday ending their dream of landing four trophies this season.

Clubs reject TV offer

English soccer clubs rejected a £5.3 million (\$8m) offer from broadcasting companies Thursday in a deadlock that could block out television coverage of the sport

next season. Both sides say the dispute is crucial for the future of British football and the habits of the fans on whom it depends.

The issues include declining attendance at grounds, how much football should be broadcast, whether it will be shown live or, as now, recorded for later transmission, and whether the clubs can put advertisements on their players' shirts.

At a special meeting in London, the chairmen of the 52 Football League clubs voted unanimously to turn down the companies' offer.

"The clubs feel the offer is derogatory," League President Jack Dunnett told reporters. "The clubs are prepared to risk losing television coverage altogether in order to hold out for a better offer," he added.

But the broadcasting companies—the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Commercial Independent Television—say they will not raise their bid.

Watanabe retains WBA title

TSU, Japan (R) — Japan's Jiro Watanabe retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior bantamweight title when he knocked out Peruvian challenger Luis Ibanez in the eighth round here Thursday night.

Watanabe, 27, was in complete control from the first bell of his third defence and had won all seven rounds on Puerto Rican referee Waldemar Schmitt's card before the fight came to an end after one minute 22 seconds of the eighth.

Watanabe, also comfortably ahead on the two judges' scorecards, twice sent Ibanez to the canvas in the eighth. A right hook to the head put the challenger down for the first time and when he was quickly toppled by a powerful left, Schmitt stepped in and counted him out as he tried to rise to his feet.

"I knew I had him when he first went down on his knees," said the champion.

Ibanez, who could never match Watanabe's speed or aggression, suffered a series of cuts around the eyes and admitted: "He was too fast for me."

Watanabe has now won all three title fights inside the distance since taking the crown from Rafael Perdomo of Panama in April last year. He has won 18 of his 19 fights, 13 inside the distance.

Yachtsmen around the globe try to break 132-year-old American monopoly

MIAMI, Florida (R) — The staff at the tradition-bound New York Yacht Club have been dutifully polishing the America's Cup for 132 years. But Yachtsmen from around the world are determined to give them a break.

Yachtsmen from Britain, Canada, Australia, France and Italy hope next September to see an empty pedestal in the middle of the club's domed trophy room, where the Cup has been rooted since 1851.

Whether it can be wrested from its New York home will be decided off Newport, Rhode Island, in the world's premier yacht race, which blends tradition and high technology, blue-bloods and entrepreneurs.

But first the crews must compete against each other to settle who will give the unbeaten Americans a run for their Cup in September.

The Canadians have not mounted a challenge this century but are undeterred. Bruce Kirby, designer of their entry Canada I, said: "We've looked the opposition over and I think we have as good a chance as anyone else."

Kirby is as taciturn as any New England Yankee when it comes to discussing the fine points of his creation.

Entries are classified on a complicated formula involving everything from length and mast height

to beam and ballast. "There really isn't a lot of room for major changes," he said.

Kirby said he had concentrated on making the boat more manoeuvrable, looking for "that tiny difference". But the details are a fiercely guarded secret.

The 12-metre yacht's specifications are locked away in a black case which his colleagues say they have never seen him open or allow out of his sight.

Operations manager Doug Keary said the two-year Canadian campaign had been mounted on a shoestring budget of a maximum five million dollars. This included the price of a U.S.-built Clipper, considered one of the best in the world, for trials.

The Canadian and French entries are docked in Miami. "If Miami Beach hadn't mobilised for us we'd be chipping off the ice in Lake Ontario," Keary said.

Keary said challengers were at a disadvantage because the U.S. had a long tradition of building 12-metre craft and enjoyed technological superiority. U.S. entries could rely on quality boatbuilding and equipment at all levels, he said.

French operations manager Jean Castenet was less charitable in finding reasons for the U.S. monopoly. "They kept changing the rules to maintain their advantage," he said.

Matters began to improve only in 1970 when, for the first time, foreign entries were allowed to race each other to decide who should face the American entry. Previously, it was the sole prerogative of the New York club to select the competing vessel.

All entries once had to be 100 per cent home-produced, from design to computerised navigational aids. But this stipulation was eased in 1980 and contenders were allowed to buy an equipment available in their countries, including foreign manufacture.

"Now the technological edge is disappearing," Castenet said. "If it still remains at all this year, it will certainly be gone by 1986."

Challengers also fear the U.S. have the better choice of crews. Canada's Keary said: "In small boat sailing Canadians are at the top of the heap, but we have a hard time finding experienced crew for the bigger boats."

"When the Yanks want to put a crew together it is only a question of picking out the cream of the crop."

The Canadians decided to select world-class sailors of smaller boats and weld them into a 12-metre crew.

The French have completely revamped their entry, the tricoloured France II. Castenet said the hull was the only surviving part of the vessel which nearly beat the

Australian entry in the races leading up to the 1980 Cup challenge.

"We had sail troubles," he recalled. "All that is changed now." He said he admired the Canadian design but added: "there have been similar designs in the past."

Canada I got its first taste of salt-water sailing last week. The young Canadian team and the French veterans will later sail Spinnaker to Spinnaker in practice races before going to the first qualifying races in Newport on June 1.

While the Canadians, who rely mainly on the generosity of South Florida tourism promoters for berths and lodging, the British are spending about \$80,000 a week.

The British have two potential entries, the Lionheart and the Victory, and four seasoned captains competing to skipper the entry at Newport.

"This is a much bigger campaign than earlier British challenges," sailing coach Peter Bateman said. "We are going into everything in much greater depth." He thinks Britain have a 50-50 chance of winning.

But he added: "There's an element of chance in yacht racing and if luck goes against us, that's unfortunate." The sentiment is undoubtedly shared by financier Peter de Savory, head of the British syndicate, who has sunk \$8m of his own money into the challenge.

French soccer turns to prime minister for financial help

PARIS (R) — French professional soccer, in severe financial crisis despite growing crowds and World Cup successes last year, has appealed to Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy for help.

In an open letter to Mauroy, the National League asked for an early meeting to discuss financial burdens faced by clubs, especially a recent increase in compulsory social security payments from 25 per cent of salaries to 30 per cent.

League administrator Jacques Thebaud told reporters: "Eight clubs have already filed for bankruptcy, others face the risk of it. Some clubs are behind in their payments. The problem cannot go on forever."

In addition to social security payments and normal income tax, clubs must also pay a form of entertainment tax.

Thebaud said the latest figures available, for the 1980-1981 season, showed League clubs had a total deficit of between \$2.9 to \$4.3 million.

Although attendance has improved significantly at first division matches this season, one official said: "Despite that, clubs are in desperate straits."

This season clubs will gain some benefit from France's feat in finishing fourth in the 1982 World Cup finals.

Each first division club will receive \$55,000 from a pool set up by the French Football Federation to handle the income from sponsorships and television broadcasts.

One club not facing hard times

is Racing Paris 1, a second division team formed only a few months ago. Backed by wealthy businessmen, the club recently launched a huge poster publicity campaign estimated to have cost about \$160,000.

But many famous-name clubs are in dire straits. Sainte Etienne, who once carried the flag for France in European club competitions, have been racked by boardroom wrangling, officials charged with fraud, absent fans, and a plunge from the top to the bottom of the first division.

The club have not announced acute financial problems, but the board must be worried about the financial squeeze caused by small crowds and the team's poor showing.

Shriver defeats Barker

OAKLAND, California (R) — A shout of encouragement from a fan in the crowd cost Britain's Sue Barker dear in her second round match in the Oakland women's tennis tournament here Thursday night.

Barker, trailing 4-2 and with break point against her in the deciding set of her match against third-seeded Pam Shriver, was distracted by the shout as she was about to deliver her second serve.

She double-faulted and the American held her service in the next game to win 6-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Afterwards Shriver said that the outcome of the match could have hinged on the action of the noisy fan. "Sue's such a talent. I'm just glad to have this one behind me," the American added.

Others to reach the quarter-finals were Australian Wendy Turnbull, the fourth seed, who beat Mary Lou Piatek of the United States 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, sixth-seeded West German Bettina Bunge, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, and unseeded Claudia Kohde of West Germany, who beat France's Catherine Tanvier 6-3, 6-7, 6-4.

Gerulaitis reaches semi-finals of ATP tournament in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Top seed Vitas Gerulaitis of the U.S. reached the semi-finals of an Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tournament Thursday night, beating West Germany's Michael Westphal 7-6, 6-1 after a closely-fought first set.

The young German's big serve tested Gerulaitis in the opening set but the American's class finally carried him through the tiebreaker 7-3.

Unseeded Stanislav Birner of Czechoslovakia made the last four by beating number four seed Rod Frawley of Australia 6-3, 6-4.

The other quarter final results: Magnus Tideman (Sweden) beat Zoltan Kuharsky (Switzerland) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; Heinz Gunthardt (Switzerland) beat Libor Pimek (Czechoslovakia) 6-4, 6-4.

Noah beats fellow-countryman Leconte

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Second-seeded Yannick Noah of France overcame a two-hour rain delay and a comeback attempt by fellow-countryman Henri Leconte to score a 6-0, 4-6, 6-2, victory Thursday in the third round of a \$255,000 tennis tournament.

Leconte, seeded ninth, broke Noah's serve in the second set to even the match. But 22-year-old Noah, the tournament's defending champion, took only 30 minutes after rain suspended play during the third and deciding set, to secure the win.

In other matches, unseeded American Mike Bauer, who beat top seed Jimmy Connors in straight-sets on Wednesday, scored his second upset, beating number 12 seed Chris Lewis of New Zealand 6-4, 6-4.

Third-seeded Jose Higueras of Spain beat Tom Gullikson of the U.S. 7-6, 6-4. Fourth-seeded American Eliot Teltscher also moved into the quarterfinals by beating Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 7-6, 6-0. Robert Van't Hof of the U.S. beat Russell Simpson of New Zealand, the 14th seed 6-0, 6-3.

AUSTRALIANS

ELECTION DAY IS 5 MARCH 1983

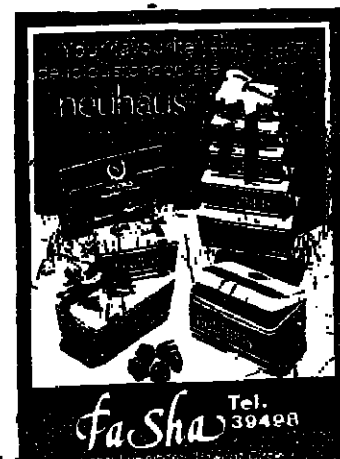
A General Election for the Australian House of Representatives and Senate will be held on 5 March 1983.

APPLY NOW FOR A POSTAL VOTE

If you are enrolled on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll and you are travelling or are temporarily resident in Jordan and will not be returning to Australia before Election Day you may apply for a Postal Vote.

Postal Voting Facilities and a list of candidates are available at the Australian Embassy, between 4th and 5th Circles, Jabal Amman, Telephone 43246.

REMEMBER VOTING IS COMPULSORY.



8 countries to compete in world ice hockey

Munich (DaD) — Eight countries will compete for the ice hockey world championship in the Federal Republic of Germany from 16 April to 2 May. They are the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Italy, the GDR and the Federal Republic. Sixteen fixtures will be held in

Dortmund, six in Dusseldorf and 18 in Munich. The play-off between the best four will be in Munich from 27 April to 2 May. The home team has not looked at all bad in the run-up. Czech goalie Lang is here seen warding off an attack by Germany's Steiger in the Ivestia Cup.

Indian spinners trouble West Indies

KINGSTON, Jamaica (R) — India's spin bowlers pinned down West Indies to 149 for four wickets and star batsman Viv Richards went to see a doctor after doubling over in pain on the second day of the first cricket test.

West Indies, chasing India's first innings total of 251, could have found themselves in deep trouble without a fighting 50 not out from Gordon Greenidge and sensible batting from skipper Clive Lloyd (20). They were still batting at close of play Thursday.

But Richards, who made 29 before being caught off Shastri, said afterwards he was going to see a specialist because of shoulder trouble.

"My left shoulder is killing me," said Richards, who clearly suffered during his innings. At one point he doubled over in agony after hitting out at India's off-spinner Srinivas Venkataraghavan.

Richards joined Greenidge with the West Indian score on 36 and at a time when Indian skipper Kapil

Dev was bringing on his frontline spinners, the 38-year-old veteran Venkat and 17-year-old slow left-arm Maninder Singh.

Veteran West Indian fast bowler wrapped up the Indians' first innings before lunch. Venkat went for nought after being forced onto his stumps by a vicious ball that smashed into his shoulder.

West Indies had two overs before lunch with Greenidge and Desmond Haynes making a confident start. But Haynes failed to deliver his promised big score and went for 25 when he drove Kapil Dev straight to Mohinder Amarnath at extra cover.

Venkat and Maninder Singh kept the batsmen quiet until Ravi Shastri, who had replaced Venkat, made the ball jump in the last delivery before tea to have Richards caught at first slip.

Larry Gomes went for four after the resumption. He was caught short leg by Yashpal Sharma to leave West Indies at 91 for three. Gus Logie, making his test debut, was run out for 13 during a mix-up with Greenidge.

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WORLD

British centrist alliance gains Labour seat in sensational win

LONDON (R) — Britain's centrist Liberal-Social Democrat alliance won the London by-election in Bermondsey Friday, seizing the opposition Labour Party stronghold by a margin of more than 9,000 votes.

Liberal Simon Hughes, a 31-year-old barrister, captured the parliamentary seat which had been held by Labour for nearly 60 years with 17,017 votes, 54.4 per cent of the turnout.

Labour's Peter Tatchell, a controversial Australian-born left-winger, crashed to a big defeat. He received 7,698 votes, 26 per cent, in the House of Commons constituency where Labour cruised home with an 11,756 majority in the 1979 general election.

The Conservative Party of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher saw its share of the vote slashed from 7,582 votes, one quarter of the total in the 1979 poll, to 1,631.

Michael Foot defiant
LONDON (R) — Opposition leader Michael Foot pledged Friday to lead Britain's troubled Labour Party at the next general election despite a devastating defeat at the hands of the minority Liberal-Social Democrat alliance.

Mr. Foot, speaking shortly after the alliance trounced Labour in an important by-election in London's Docklands district of Bermondsey, said it was a setback. "No one can deny that," the 69-year-old Labour leader said after the loss of one of the safest Labour seats in Parliament.

Asked how the result would affect his leadership, Mr. Foot said: "The country needs a Labour government which will rebuild British industry, restore full employment, and overcome the dangers of the nuclear arms race."

"My determination to fight and win that election is as strong as it

was on the day I became leader of the Labour Party in November, 1980.

"I intend to carry out the task for which I was elected."

Bermondsey was the alliance's first gain of a Labour seat and Social Democratic Party President Shirley Williams said it proved that Labour would never form another government.

Liberal leader David Steel declared: "This is not a victory — it is a rout. Labour remains the official opposition, but our alliance is now the effective opposition to the Tory (Conservative) government."

More killed in Assam as refugees flood border states

NEW DELHI (R) — Troops were called in to stop clashes in central areas of Assam as violence continued in the northeastern Indian state and its refugee problem grew more serious.

The army was deployed in three places including Khairabari in the central Darrang district where more than 30 bodies were recovered after clashes, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

Troops were also called out in the Lakhimpur district in the north-central part of the state where police said earlier they had recovered more than 50 bodies of immigrants.

The latest bloodshed has taken the overall death toll from election violence and ethnic clashes to more than 1,500.

At least 6,000 immigrants, mostly Bengalis who came originally from neighbouring Bangladesh, have been given shelter in West Bengal state, while 21,000 tribespeople have crossed into jungles in the Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh, according to official reports.

Large numbers of people fleeing Assam had also entered its southern neighbouring state of Manipur, PTI reported. Meanwhile, an official spokesman in Gauhati said relief operations had been put into top gear in all affected areas. He added district authorities had been given firm instructions to call out the army wherever necessary.

In the central Nowgong district, scene of the worst massacre when up to 1,000 immigrant villagers were hacked down by frenzied tribesmen last week, over 25,000 people are now housed in relief camps.

In Goreswar, a small railway town in the central Kamrup straining in during the past week to escape fighting with ethnic Assamese.

Peugeot cars brought into Paris metro

PARIS (R) — This week bemused early morning commuters using the busy Saint Augustin Metro underground station in Paris have been threading their way through five shiny new Peugeot 205 cars, the company's latest venture into the small car market.

The five cars, parked on red carpeting and attended by chic sales girls, are lined up on the platform.

"Half the people asked us how we got them down the stairs. But it's attracting a lot of interest," one sales girl said.

The cars are being used to promote the Peugeot 205, which is being sold in France at a price of 12.5 million francs.

Mr. Feighan, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told a press conference: "A Col. Waghlestein, the head of the U.S. military group of trainers, speaking quite candidly, said he believed there could be no military victory in El Salvador."

A non-partisan group, the Washington-based commission on United States-Central American relations, sponsored the four-day trip for a contingent which included folk singer Mary Travers of

Seoul relaxes grip

SEOUL (R) — President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea lifted a ban on political activity imposed on 250 politicians, but three former presidential contenders are among 305 still debarred.

One of them, leading dissident Kim Daq-Jung, is still subject to an eight-year ban imposed initially on 811 politicians in Nov. 1980. Last December, he was freed from jail where he was serving 20 years for sedition and flown to the United States for medical treatment.

The ban still affects the former leader of the dissolved opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), Kim Young-Sam, who has been under house arrest since June 1982.

The third former presidential contender still banned is former Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil.

former head of the government Democratic Republican Party (DRP), who donated his \$36-million fortune to the state in 1980 to avoid prosecution for corruption.

The relaxation follows a visit to South Korea by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in January. He told president Chun Washington was pleased with the political developments in South Korea and would welcome further liberalisations.

Political sources said this show of confidence by President Chun could lessen the chances of dissent as students prepared to return to universities after the winter holidays, and could improve the country's image abroad before next month's Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi.

Tight security for Queen Elizabeth in California

LOS ANGELES (R) — Queen Elizabeth arrives in California Saturday amid heavy security for a visit which will include a stay with president and Mrs. Reagan and 35 ceremonies attended by more than 8,000 guests.

The first stop on the 10-day visit, her first to the Western United States, will be the port of San Diego. The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, are in the middle of a four-week tour which has taken them to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Mexico and proceeds next to Western Canada.

A San Francisco flag company says it has sold 9,000 Union Jacks, including one huge banner for \$1,500.

In Los Angeles, film stars have been clamouring for tickets to a dinner for 500 to be given by Mrs. Reagan on Sunday for the royal

couple on a stage at 20th Century-Fox studios. Frank Sinatra and Perry Como will entertain.

A local milliner said she has been inundated with orders from women who insist on wearing elaborate hats and white gloves to meet the queen in a city where the regular dress is open blouses and slacks.

And in San Francisco, a homosexual club is organising a queen look-alike competition.

On a more serious note, a protest alliance of 50 groups, including opponents of U.S. nuclear arms policies and the presence of British forces in Northern Ireland, is planning two big demonstrations when the royal party is in San Francisco. Smaller protests are to be staged in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

Argentina considers amnesty

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's military government is planning to issue an official explanation on how it cracked down on leftist guerrillas in the late 1970s, together with an amnesty for servicemen who may have committed human rights abuses during this ruthless campaign, military sources said.

The two measures would be announced simultaneously sometime next month, they added.

The junta initiative is aimed at defusing one of the most politically explosive problems looming over Argentina's planned return to democracy by March.

'No military victory is possible in El Salvador'

NEW YORK (R) — The commander of U.S. military advisers training government troops in El Salvador told a private American mission visiting the country that there could be no military victory over the rebels, a Democratic Congressman said.

Congressman Edward Feighan, one of 20 Americans on the mission last month, said the commander's assessment of the outcome of El Salvador's civil war was contrary to President Reagan's policy — a "policy single-minded in the pursuit of military victory."

Mr. Feighan, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told a press conference: "A Col. Waghlestein, the head of the U.S. military group of trainers, speaking quite candidly, said he believed there could be no military victory in El Salvador."

A non-partisan group, the Washington-based commission on United States-Central American relations, sponsored the four-day trip for a contingent which included folk singer Mary Travers of

1984 — the fate of up to 30,000 people who disappeared during the anti-guerrilla campaign.

According to reports in the Argentine press, the junta has been considering for some time the possibility of a "self-amnesty" to clear aside the problem of missing people before general elections due in October or November.

Local human rights groups have complained bitterly against such a move, saying that the armed forces lack moral authority to absolve themselves of responsibility for acts which they themselves committed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Odd beast softens Chinese man's heart

PEKING (R) — A hunter in southwest China claims to have captured a beast that was half-man and half-animal and then to have let it go after it begged for mercy, the official China Daily said Friday. The newspaper quoted Bu Shaoqiu, 40, as saying he caught the wild man in a trap laid on Yunnan Mountain, Guangxi Province. He said the beast was more than one metre high and covered in hair, with a round head and a mouth like a monkey, the nose of a dog and the ears, eyes and fingers of a human being. The China Daily said a similar creature was seen on the same mountain 800 years ago by a local mandarin, according to ancient records. Another sighting was reported 40 years ago. There have been several reported sightings of wild men of various shapes and sizes in the official Chinese press.

Marx, Erin had 'loving relationship'

LOS ANGELES (R) — A psychologist said Erin Fleming, companion to Groucho Marx, was childish and paranoid, but she had a loving relationship with the comedian. "My observation is that he (Marx) was not threatened by her," the psychologist, Dr. Milton Wexler, told the Santa Monica Superior Court in Los Angeles. "She was enormously helpful to him (Marx)." Dr. Wexler said when questioned by Miss Fleming's lawyer, David Sabih, "Without her, I believe he was lost."

China calls for destruction of rats

PEKING (R) — The Chinese government has called for a nationwide rat-killing drive during the forthcoming breeding season to end a plague that has been causing big crop losses. The official Economic Daily said that about 20 million hectares of crops had been seriously damaged by rats.

Smith told to get Rhodesian passport

HARARE (R) — White opposition leader Ian Smith said Thursday the Zimbabwe government had turned down his request to have his passport back so he could travel to South Africa for medical treatment. He said the minister of home affairs, Herbert Ushewokunze, had written a letter telling him to approach Rhodesian authorities for a Rhodesian passport since he had stated abroad that he recognised Rhodesia and not Zimbabwe.

10 charged with murder in Bolivia

LA PAZ (R) — Ten people have been arrested and will go on trial on charges of killing Bolivian political leaders and a Spanish Jesuit priest, Interior Minister Mario Roncal said here. The minister told a press conference that the 10 were accused of the 1980 killings of Socialist chief Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, eight leaders of the leftist revolutionary movement (MIR) and the priest, Father Luis Espinal. Earlier, a government commission accused a previous military ruler, Gen. Hugo Banzer, of being responsible for the clandestine burial of 14 people who went missing when he was in power. The bodies were discovered in a La Paz cemetery last week.

Murderer courts death deliberately

AMARILLO, Texas (R) — A condemned murderer, screaming "shoot me" was shot in the chest when he slashed at a deputy U.S. marshal with a sharpened screwdriver during a court appearance, court officials said. Charles Rumbaugh, 25, was listed in critical condition at Northwest Texas Hospital, Rumbaugh, who has waived his right to appeal against his execution, was testifying at a hearing sought by the American Civil Liberties Union and his family to determine his mental competence. Witnesses said Rumbaugh suddenly shouted "I've chosen my own form of execution," pulled the screwdriver from his chest and ran at a deputy marshal, shouting "shoot me." The Marshal did.

Reagan expects to convince Senate about Adelman

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan says he expects to win Senate confirmation for Kenneth Adelman to head the U.S. arms control agency despite a recommendation by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the nomination should be rejected.

"I am fully committed to his nomination and I share (Senate Republican leader) Howard Baker's assessment that the Senate will confirm him," the president said in a statement.

By a vote of 9-8 Thursday, the Foreign Relations Committee recommended rejection of the president's nominee to become director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA).

Seven Democrats and two Republicans voted against confirmation, saying 36-year-old Mr. Adelman lacked the experience or commitment to arms control needed for the job.

A full senate vote was put off until mid-March to give the administration time to line up the votes it needs for Mr. Adelman to win, an aide to Mr. Baker said.

"Once we go to the floor we expect to confirm him," the aide told reporters.

The ACDA head is responsible by law for U.S. arms control policy, but the importance of the post has varied from one administration to another.

Democratic Sen. Paul Tsongas urged Mr. Adelman to withdraw, saying his nomination had irrevocably increased fears in Europe and America that the Reagan administration did not really want arms control.

Mr. Adelman said he was "a passionate advocate" of President Reagan's arms control efforts now being negotiated in Geneva and would not pull out.

Up to 21 feared dead in pilgrimage from Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — An 18-year-old girl "saint" sent as many as 21 of her followers on a voyage of death Thursday when they set sail in tin boxes on a bizarre religious pilgrimage to bring Iran victory in its war with Iraq.

Police said they had so far recovered 13 bodies from boxes bobbing in the sea off Karachi, rescued 13 people and were searching for eight more.

The girl was identified as Nasim Fatimah, who claimed to have received messages from Prophet Mohammed two and a half years ago. Police said her body was among those recovered.

She told her followers, all poor and ill-educated villagers from the Punjab province, more than 1,600 kilometres from Karachi, that if they went by sea to a shrine in Iraq, Iran would win the war with its Gulf neighbour.

Police said women and teenagers were among the pilgrims who were trying to reach a shrine at Karbala, near Baghdad.

One of the survivors told police that 38 people gathered on a beach near Karachi Wednesday night after travelling by their boxes to the city by train from their hometown.

3 Clergymen charged with murder in the Philippines

BACOLOD, Philippines (R) — Three Roman Catholic priests were charged Friday with the murder of a town mayor who was shot dead in the Philippines a year ago.

The prosecutor's office said charges filed by the provincial military commander alleged that Australian Father Brian Gore and Irishman Father Niall O'Brien plotted the killing in an ambush by Filipino Priest Father Vicente Dangan.

Kabankalan Mayor Pablo Zola and four companions were shot last March 10, a few months after the bodies of 10 religious workers were discovered on his sugar farm in Negros Occidental province.

Father Gore, 38, from Perth, has already been charged with inciting rebellion and faces deportation hearings in Manila next week.

The prosecutor's office said the charges against the priests were based on a report by the local police chief who alleged that Father Gore and Father O'Brien had planned the killing in a series of meetings with lay leaders early last year.

Spain to modernise army

MADRID (R) — The Spanish army will lose a quarter of its officers and more than a third of its men over the next five years under Socialist government plans announced Friday for a more flexible and professional force.

Defence Minister Narcis Serra told a parliamentary commission of his plans for changes in army promotion, training, deployment and size, designed to bring the army into line with modern Western forces.

Mr. Serra said he planned to cut the army by 90,000 men from the present 250,000 and to reduce the number of officers by a quarter.

Promotion conditions would shift away from strict seniority towards merit and competition.

A fixed pattern of troop assignment would be scrapped in favour of mobile deployment allowing rapid flexible response to any threat, he said.

The move towards defensive planning would be reinforced by doubling the defence intelligence staff, Mr. Serra told the commission.

Consensious objection will be recognised as an exemption from service, he said. Another innovation would be opening the armed forces to women, he added.

Commission raps Roosevelt's decision on Japanese-Americans during the war

WASHINGTON (R) — President Franklin Roosevelt refused to release some 100,000 Japanese-Americans from U.S. internment camps until after the 1944 presidential elections for political reasons, a congressional commission said.

The commission of wartime relocation and internment of civilians criticised Mr. Roosevelt in a report released recently on the wartime internment of the ethnic Japanese, which blamed on racial prejudice and hysteria, not military necessity.

Some 100,000 Japanese-Americans, over half of whom were U.S. citizens, were interned shortly after the Japanese attack

on the U.S. Pearl Harbour naval base in Dec. 1941.

The commission also said the amount of compensation paid to Japanese-Americans after the war was inadequate. It is expected to issue recommendations on possible additional compensation some time this spring.

U.S. military leaders recommended the internment of groups of military necessity, but by 1943 officials had told Mr. Roosevelt that the ethnic Japanese posed no security risk and should be released.

But the president, aware of intense anti-Japanese feeling on the U.S. West Coast, delayed the releases until a few days after he was

safely re-elected for an unprecedented fourth term, the report said.

It said racial prejudice and wartime hysteria, not military requirements, had caused the ethnic Japanese to be interned in the first place.

About 120,000 Japanese-Americans spent some time behind barbed wire in camps run by the U.S. military, although German-Americans and Italian-Americans remained free.

Before the war, ethnic Japanese had long been a target of anti-Japanese agitation by those resenting economic competition from the newcomers, the commission said.

Chicago's mayor-to-be vows to destroy Democratic Party machine

CHICAGO (R) — Congressman Harold Washington, who looks certain to become Chicago's first black mayor, both used and promised to destroy the Democratic Party organisation which has dominated the city's politics for decades.

His victory over Mayor Jane Byrne and state attorney Richard Daley in Tuesday's ballot for the Democratic mayoral nomination was based on an off-repeated campaign promise to voters: "When I'm elected you won't have to fight city hall, you will be city hall."

In his victory speech, he repeated the plan behind that pledge — to dismantle the patronage system which for a half-century has held the Democratic Party machine here together by rewarding the faithful with jobs, big and small.

Yet it was the party organisation, and the occasional appearance of insensitivity to racial

questions on the part of Mrs. Byrne, which helped Mr. Washington carry the day.

In the weeks before last November's general election, the party organisation added 100,000 new black voters to the rolls and they voted heavily in that election.

This week it was those same black voters, who comprise 600,000 of the nearly 1.6 million electorate, who most took to heart Mr. Washington's promise to open city hall.

In heavily Democratic Chicago, Mr. Washington is now expected to easily beat Republican nominee Bernard Epton in the municipal election in April.

The black vote was also critical to Mrs. Byrne's campaign for a second four-year term. She had been criticised by black city leaders for naming two white women to the city's school board even though they were opposed to bussing, which is used to racially integrate classrooms, and because

she named three whites to the board which oversees public housing, where scores of thousands of blacks live.

The latter action resulted in a black boycott of a major city summer festival last year.

When leaders of the black community last year approached Mr. Washington about entering the mayoral primary, he at first resisted, saying his second term in the U.S. House of Representatives was proving rewarding. In addition, he had lost an earlier mayoral primary in 1977.

But, aides said, what prompted him to change his mind was the large numbers of black voters added to the registration rolls by the hard work of the local Democratic organisation.

Three-way race

Ironically, that party machine is controlled by Mrs. Byrne through a hand-picked chairman. A second and perhaps equally

important factor was that it was a three-way race, with state attorney Richard Daley — son of the long-time Chicago mayor and Democratic boss — also a strong contender.

According to Mr. Washington's strategy, if he played Mrs. Byrne off against Mr. Daley and gained black votes through that split, he would win.

With heavy black voter support, results showed that is what happened.

At one stage Mr. Daley, whose father was mayor for 21 years, was considered the front runner and Mrs. Byrne's aides were expecting that Mr. Washington would draw enough votes away from him to benefit her and assure a second term.

Now he is the official Democratic contender in April's contest against a relatively unknown Republican, Mr. Washington is faced with the problem of deliv-

ering on his promises if elected. But he is not the party outsider he may seem.

He grew up steeped in Chicago ward politics as the son of a Democratic precinct captain and rose through the party ranks to several terms in the state legislature and two terms in Congress.

In addition, the recent history of Chicago has seen today's outsiders becoming tomorrow's insiders.

Mrs. Byrne four years ago successfully challenged the party's hand-picked mayoral candidate, and beat the machine left behind by the late Mayor Daley, of whom she was once a protégé.

In her four years in office, she turned it into her own machine.

Above all else Mr. Washington, if elected, faces the immense problem of running a city of three million — the largest in the U.S. — ever to have a black mayor — at a time when tax revenues are falling behind fiscal and social demands.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 3
♥ A Q 8 5
♦ 8
♣ A Q 6 3

WEST
♠ 9 8 7 2
♥ 10 9 6 5
♦ 10 5 4
♣ 10 5 4

EAST
♠ 8 4
♥ 10 4 3
♦ A Q J 9 7 3 2
♣ 4 9

SOUTH
♠ A 9 7 6 2
♥ K 6
♦ 4
♣ 8 7 2

The bidding:
North East South West

1♠ 3♠ 3♦ 4♦

2NT Pass 5♦ Pass

6♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠.

This hand from a team match is an interesting lesson in technique. Both Souths gave an impressive performance, each in his own way.

Because of a preempt from East and a raise by West, both North-South pairs reached a slam that could hardly be described as laydown. Both Wests led a diamond, and both Easts took the ace and made a neutral shift to a trump.

Our first declarer won in dummy and cashed another high trump. Next came three rounds of hearts, on which he stuffed a club. When East followed to all these tricks, declarer had an infernal count of the hand—East

almost surely had seven diamonds for his jump, and he had shown up with two trumps and three hearts. Therefore, he held at most one club.

Declarer elected to play for East to have specifically a bare nine or ten of clubs, twice as good as hoping that the singleton was the king. He came to hand with a heart ruff and led the jack of clubs. West covered and declarer was delighted to find that East produced the nine. South came back to his hand with the ace of trumps and ran the eight of clubs. When East showed out as expected, twelve tricks were there.

The other declarer took a slightly different, perhaps even better, line of play. Since East had long diamonds, he rated to be short in the other suits. So declarer won the trump shift in dummy at trick two, came back to his hand with the nine of trumps and took the club finesse. When that held, he cashed the ace of clubs and then started to run his trumps. From dummy declarer discarded a club.

When declarer led his last trump, West was down to four hearts and the king of clubs. Since he knew that declarer had the jack of clubs, West had to hold the king. He reluctantly parted with a heart, in the hope that his partner had the king. But it was not to be. Dummy's remaining club was ditched, and four hearts brought declarer's trick total to twelve.